

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 354
By Womack

A RESOLUTION to designate a certain segment of U.S. Highway 41-A in Bedford County as the "Brigadier General Austin C. Shofner Highway".

WHEREAS, from time to time, the General Assembly has seen fit to name certain public byways in honor of outstanding public servants whose meritorious efforts have redounded to the benefit of all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Brigadier General Austin C. Shofner is one such person who, throughout his distinguished career in the armed forces, has been the very epitome of effective service and an astute voice of conviction and bravery; and

WHEREAS, Austin C. Shofner was born in 1916, the son of Austin Williams Shofner and Rachel Conner Shofner; and

WHEREAS, a Bedford County native, he was educated at the University of Tennessee, playing football and wrestling while maintaining the highest grade point average of any athlete attending the university at that time; and

WHEREAS, General Shofner had a distinguished military career as a U.S. Marine, receiving two Purple Hearts, the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit and a Bronze star for combat service in the Philippine Islands, on Bataan and Corregidor; and

WHEREAS, he also served for six months as a guerrilla on Mindanao Island and participated courageously in D-Day landings and operations on Peleliu Island, Luzon Island and Okinawa Island; and

WHEREAS, General Shofner escaped from a prisoner of war camp on the island of Mindanao on April 4, 1943. He retired from the military with the rank of Brigadier General before returning to his home town of Shelbyville; and

WHEREAS, he has been an active and successful business leader, serving as one of the founders of Plateau Insurance Company, the founder of Midstate Finance Company in Shelbyville and Peoples Finance Company in Tullahoma, and as a director of Citizens State Bank in Jasper; and

WHEREAS, General Shofner is married to Kathleen King Shofner and is the father of five sons, Austin C. Shofner, Jr., who is deceased, William Emory Shofner, Martin King Shofner, Robert Stewart Shofner, and Michael Monroe Shofner; and

WHEREAS, since the early 1800s, the Shofner family has continuously owned real estate in Bedford County located along Highway 41-A, even before the existence of the highway. The Shofner Lutheran Church and Cemetery are now located on the highway; and

WHEREAS, the Bedford County Commission has expressed a desire to name a certain segment of U.S. Highway 41-A to honor Austin C. Shofner's exemplary career; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly has always endeavored to honor the wishes of county governments on matters of local concern whenever it is feasible to do so; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That a segment of U.S. Highway 41-A in Bedford County, extending in a southerly direction from the Shelbyville corporate limits to the Bedford-Moore County line is hereby designated as the "Brigadier General Austin C. Shofner Highway" in honor of this exemplary man's praiseworthy service to his country and to the people of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Transportation is hereby directed to erect suitable signs or affix suitable markers designating such segment of U.S. Highway 41-A in Bedford County as the "Brigadier General Austin C. Shofner Highway".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Mrs. Kathleen King Shofner, William Emory Shofner, Martin King Shofner, Robert Stewart Shofner and Michael Monroe Shofner, and that one additional copy be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation, with this final clause omitted from such copies.

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